

Remarks

In the Official Action of August 16, 2006, the application was determined to contain the following inventions under the groups of claims set out below:

Group I: Claim 2 - drawn to a microtone having stiffening ribs.

Group II: Claims 3, 4, 6, 8, and 10 - drawn to a microtone having a pivoting and illuminating device.

Group III: Claims 5 and 9 - drawn to a microtone having operating knobs.

Election

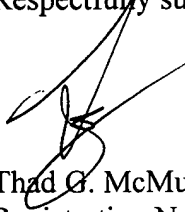
Applicants provisionally elect without traverse the subject matter of Group II (Claims 4, 6, 8, and 10) for further examination on the merits. Applicants reserve the right to prosecute the subject matter of Groups I and III recited in Claims 2, 5, and 9 at a later time. Applicants hereby withdraw from consideration Groups I and III, drawn to Claims 2, 5, and 9.

Applicants acknowledge the Examiner's advisement that Claims 1, 3 and 7 will be examined with elected Group II. Also, the Examiner has indicated that Claims 1 and 7 link inventions I, II and III. Applicants submit that the restriction requirement as to the linked inventions (Groups I, II and III) shall be withdrawn and any claim(s) depending from or otherwise requiring all the limitations of the allowable linking claims should be rejoined. Claims that require all the limitations of an allowable linking claim shall be entered as a matter of right if the amendment is presented prior to final rejection or allowance.

Conclusion

Applicant respectfully submits that all pending claims are now in condition for allowance, which action is courteously requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Thad G. McMurray', is written over the printed name and address.

Thad G. McMurray
Registration No. 58,725
Simpson & Simpson, PLLC
5555 Main Street
Williamsville, NY 14221-5406
Telephone No. 716-626-1564

TGM/RKL
Dated: September 13, 2006